



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 22 2006

THE ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
Post Office Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry:

Thank you for your letter of December 12, 2005, encouraging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to exclude West Texas from the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR). In your letter, you state that including West Texas in CAIR would impose a tremendous burden on the residents of West Texas and provide only marginal benefits to the Eastern United States.

Your letter also notes that on June 18, 2005, you signed into law House Bill 2481, which included a provision mandating the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to take steps to persuade EPA to revisit CAIR and exclude West Texas. TCEQ responded by submitting to US EPA a petition for reconsideration of West Texas, following publication of the final CAIR in the Federal Register. We expect to issue a decision on whether to reconsider the inclusion of West Texas in CAIR, by March 15, 2006.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have further questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Dona DeLeon, in EPA's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, at 202-564-7178.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Johnson", is written over the typed name "Stephen L. Johnson".

Stephen L. Johnson